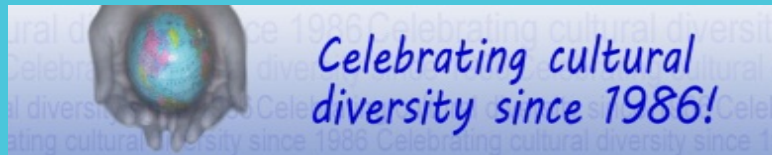




## Quinte Immigration Services

**Best Practices:**  
**Working with refugees in remote or rural communities**

Assisting the settlement needs of refugees in rural and remote areas that are under-resourced



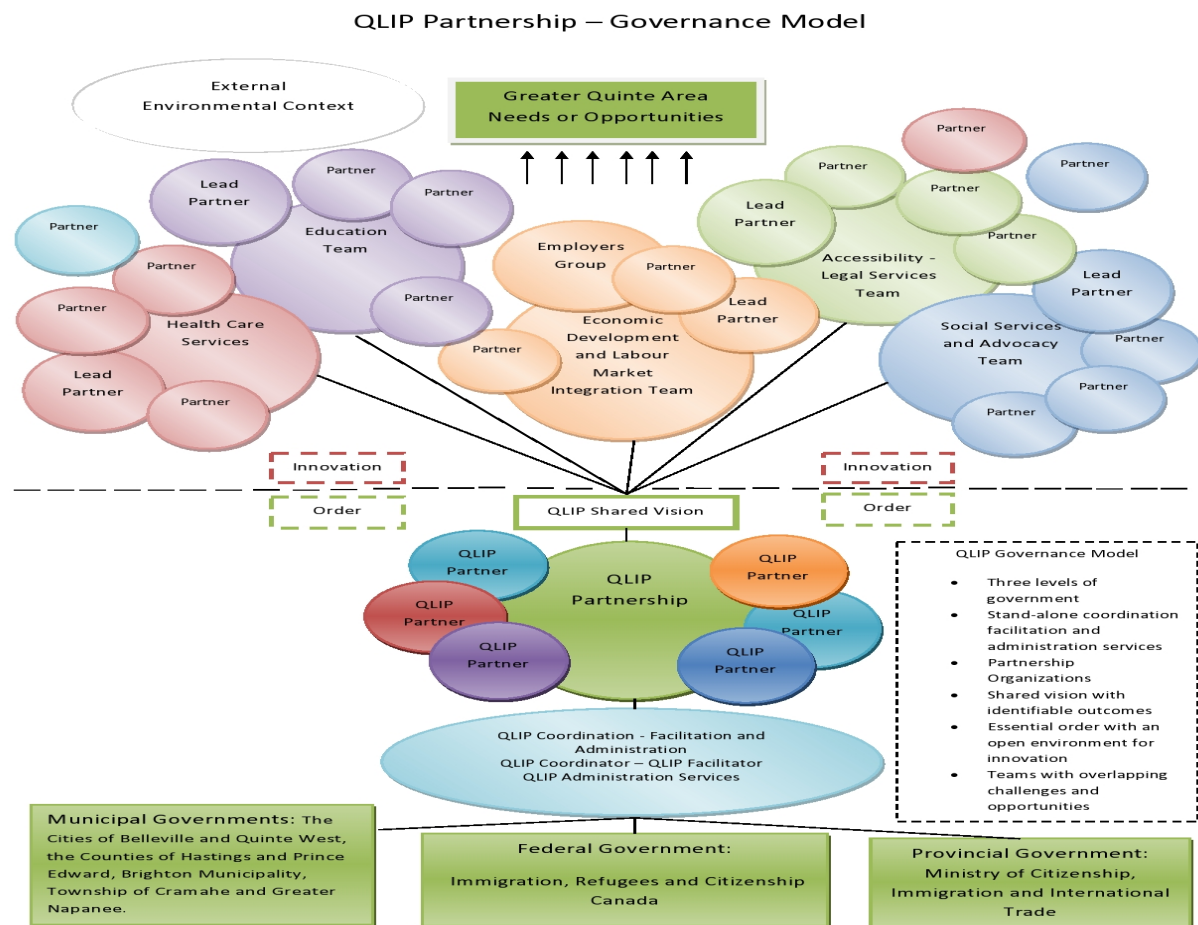
# A brief environmental snapshot of the local community

A vast catchment area, one service provider 6 counties, 21 wards and municipalities, a mix of rural and urban areas. Quinte West and Belleville as a hub. An average of 850 newcomers moving to the region every year.

# The Importance of networking when designing new programs

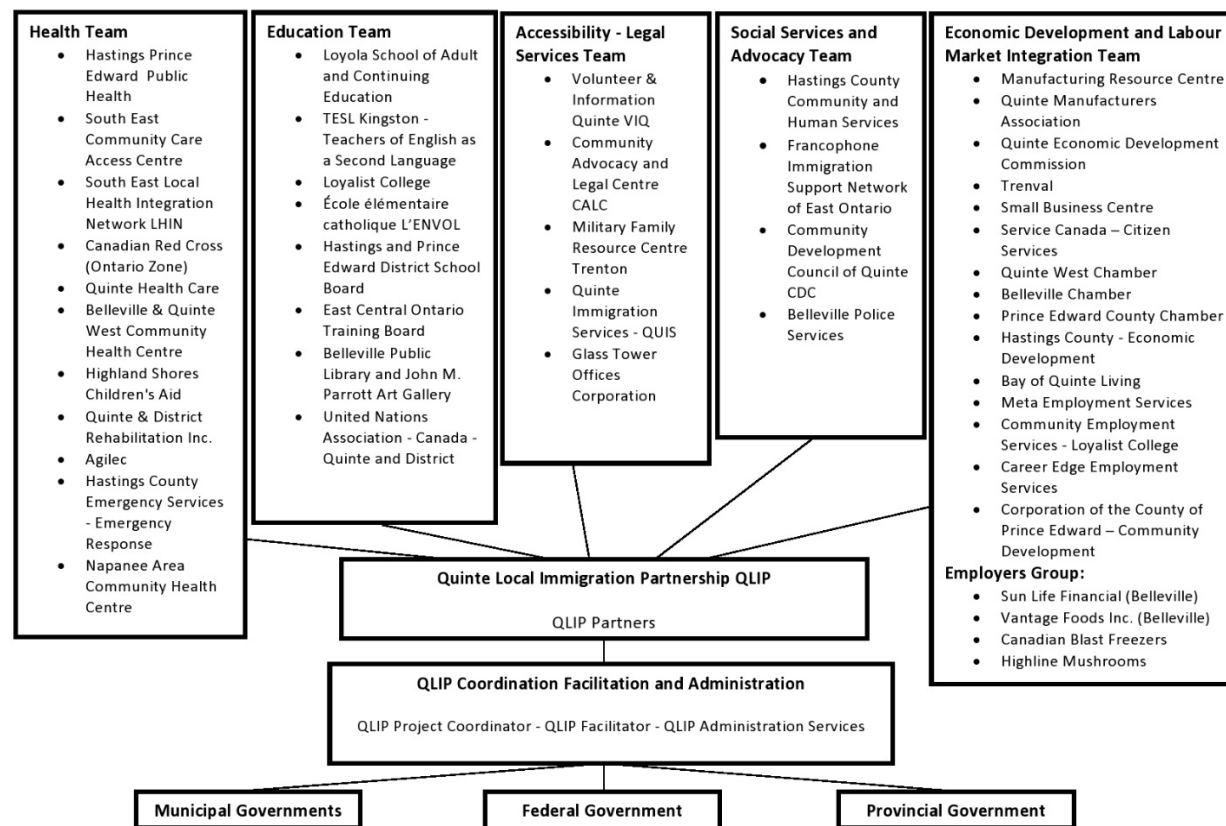
Local, regional and provincial  
networks

# Quinte LIP



# Quinte LIP

## QLIP Partnership – Organization Model for Working Groups / Teams



a) the use of a social enterprise (CEOTIS)

b) resource sharing through LIP partnerships

c) municipal assistance

d) use of online tools (apps, website, social media)

- Existing networks in the Quinte Region
- Available resources/ Social Enterprise, your network can be your clients and a venue for marketing.
- Rural Areas x Urban areas
- Major employers and the case for good networking that benefits all
- The three levels of government, interaction and advocacy for support and their involvement in our projects.
- The importance of LIP's in a changing services delivery environment.

## The most common allies of every project

- Municipalities economic development offices
- Community development groups
- Services delivery stakeholders
- Health services
- Legal services
- Community groups (churches, service club organizations)
- Local foundations.
- Local, regional and national media, social media network.
- [www.quintelip.ca](http://www.quintelip.ca) several resources can be found on line.

## Crisis response team.

- The Syrian refugee crisis response in the Quinte region
- August 2015
- Alarming media reports of mass exodus of Syrians from the conflict zone. Many perishing trying to escape.
- Community calls for mobilization
- September 2015 initial meetings with staff, volunteers and communication to the board of directors in view of a possible change in policy of the government of the day regarding accepting increasing numbers Syrian refugees to Canada.



## A brief time line of our pilot project development

August 2015 –

- Start of community movement to help Syrian refugees (through the Quinte Local Immigration Partnership an announcement is made with the creation of a refugee task network ).
- Media release with a proposed community agenda for organizing a welcome committee.
- <http://www.intelligencer.ca/2015/09/30/want-to-sponsor-a-refugee-quis-will-help>

September 2015

- Media Campaign intensifies, 29 presentations provided to local community groups. Churches, service clubs, sponsorship groups.

The importance of media relations when mobilizing a community.

- Organizing and assisting privately sponsoring groups in the region starts.

## A brief time line of our pilot project development

- December 2015- First refugee sponsored families starts to arrive in the Quinte region
- January 2016- First Refugee Task Forum in Belleville provided to local service providers, sponsoring groups, school boards, Ontario Works.

Content: all aspects of social, religious, cultural, history and geography of Syria followed by a panel of all regional service providers of ESL, settlement and employment services. 300 people attended the forum with good media coverage

February 2016 – Second Refugee Task Forum in Quinte West.

The same content is repeated in another municipality 190 people attended.

The goals of the 2 forums was to provide cultural awareness of Syrian refugees, the available services before their arrival and an opportunity to network with all groups in the same space for suggestions and ideas.

Panel Discussion Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3Y8o4j96L4>

# Research Research Research

- Collection of information from all privately sponsoring groups in the region.
- Numbers of families sponsored and number of family members, number of children, history background including skills and language proficiency, medical issues and other needs
- Strategy and planning for services delivery based on demographic distribution in the region, needs and general information based on collected data.
- Assessment of existing resources and needed resources.

## A pathway to self sustainability

- GARs, PSRs, BVORs
- What happens after 12 months of the federal and private financial support?
- What plans are in place to ensure access to a pathway of self sustainability?
- How can the settlement services sector respond to a crisis in a social responsible manner when government funds are not available or not enough?
- What are the short term and long term challenges. (Language proficiency, literacy, skills levels assessment, financial support, interpretation services, housing, etc...)

## A pilot project is born

- Research results as the base for creation of programs including needs, challenges and existing resources
- When a challenge becomes an opportunity (labour shortages being met with available skills of a new labour force)
- The need of employers for a labour force matched with the needs of self sustainability of refugees.
- Agricultural work in Ontario a changing environment in need of a reboot.
- Farmers Feed the World the pilot project that we hope will bring financial stability to refugee families in the long term.

# Turning labour shortages into opportunities

with the help of employer collaborations (illustrated with Syrian refugee example)



- Goals: Information sessions that will provide a broad aspect of the agricultural sector in Ontario.
- Types of agriculture (growers/animal farms, etc...)
- Lease of land
- Acquisition of land (financing, cooperative models, business plans)
- Employment in the food processing industry
- Information sessions will be provided with a panel of specialists in each topic of discussions and will have an interpreter in Arabic.
- First information session in Belleville on November 15. 2016 (100 refugees already subscribed) a webinar will be produced as a result of the information session.



- The second goal of the project:

Collecting existing materials for a curriculum that will train refugees in the agriculture practices in Ontario. (types of crops, regulations, pesticides handling, food handling and safety, use of equipment, etc...).

QUIS has obtained materials from OMAFRA and has been provided with the rights to translate the documentation in Arabic for future training.

In a second stage of the project once the curriculum is ready and the training completed, certificates will be provided to participants and included in future business plans for individuals aiming to enter in cooperative models of farming.





- Second stage of the project
- Accessibility to the agricultural labour force/ food processing plants
- Employers network collaboration
- Farmers network collaboration
- Interview facilitation via interpretation, hiring of advanced ESL proficiency refugees in supervision positions
- Providing operational training onsite
- Monitoring progress with employers in the food industry and farmers leasing land.

Conclusion

- Q&A